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ARTICLES ECCLESIASTICALL

to be enquired of by the Church-wardens & Sidesmen within the Dioces of Oxon: set forth *by the authority of the Right Reverend Father in God* IOHN *by the Divine providence of God Lord Bishop of* Oxon: *Anno* 1628. *Being the third yeare from his Lordships Visitation.*

Hanson

OXFORD,
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The Oath.

YOu ſhall ſweare that you will execute the office of Churchwardens and Sydeſmen well and faithfully, that you will diligently conſider and enquire of all and every the Articles following, and make a true anſwere to euery of the ſame ſeuerally and diſtinctly in writing, preſenting every perſon of your pariſh, who hath committed any offence or fault mentioned in any of the ſaid Articles, or which are publikely defamed for any ſuch offence or fault, wherein you ſhall not vnduly preſent any perſon or perſons of evill will, malice, or any corrupt affection, nor ſhall for loue, fauour, dread, or any other indirect affection, ſpare to preſent any that be offenders in any of theſe caſes, but ſhall doe vprightly as men hauing the feare of God before your eyes, and deſirous to maintaine vertue and ſuppreſſe vice, So help you God through Ieſus Chriſt.

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Articles concerning the Clergie.

WHETHER is the whole ſervice or common prayer read in your Church or Chappell diſtinctly and reverently vpon all Sundaies and Holy-daies in ſuch order as is ſet downe in the booke of common prayer, beginning at the confeſſion, abſolution, and Pſalmes, & chapters appointed for the daies, the Hymnes of Te deum, benedictus, magnificat, & Nunc dimittis, the Creed and verſicles, the Collect, the whole Letanie, the prayers for the King and Queene, the Biſhops, the ten Commandements, the Epiſtle and Goſpell, without any kinde of alteration, or omiſſion, and at due and convenient houres, and whether doth your Miniſter omitt any part of the ſervice, and make long Sermons and prayers of his owne.

2 Whether doth your Miniſter vpon Wenſdays and Fridaies (not being Holydaies) read in your church or chappell, the Letanie and other prayers appointed in the ſaid booke for thoſe daies, and whether doth hee ſometimes read the Commination againſt ſinners in ſuch order and forme as is there preſcribed?

3 Whether doth your Parſon Vicar or Curat, in the adminiſtration of the Lords ſupper, of Baptiſme, in the ſolemnization of Marriage, buriall of the Dead, churching of Women &c. vſe the formes, prayers and ceremonies preſcribed in the communion booke? As namely, whether doth he adminiſter the communion to himſelfe kneeling, and to none other but ſuch as doe kneele at the receiving thereof: make the ſigne of the Croſſe vpon the Childs fore-head in the adminiſtration of baptiſme; baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers: doth hee vſe the ringe in marriage: and generally doth he in the diſcharging of all theſe duties (and when he readeth common prayer vpon Sundaies & Holydaies) weare a ſurpleſſe?

4 Whether doth your Miniſter or Curat, refuſe to baptize children privatly that are in danger of death, if they be thereunto required, and haue children dyed without Baptiſme by their default, or do they refuſe to adminiſter the holy communion to thoſe that be ſick, or to viſite them in their ſickneſſe if they deſire the ſame.

5 Whether doth your Minister or Curat, or any other of the Parish, speake publikely or privatly against the necessitie or benefit of the Sacraments if they may conveniently be had.

6 Whether doth your Minister vpon Sundaies at morning prayers, declare vnto the parishioners what holydaies, and fastingdaies are appointed to be kept the weeke following according to the lawes of this Realme.

7 Whether doth your Minister in the Rogation weeke, vse the perambulation of the circuite of your Parish appointed by law, and whether doth he in the said perambulation moue the people to giue thanks to God in the beholding of his benefits for the increase of the fruits vpon the earth.

8 Whether are the vsuall customes of drinkings at certaine places and houses of the parishioners at the time of such perambulations, observed and kept and allowed, vnto such as walke the bounds of your Parish, and the number of such as walke, so restrained and limitted by the Minister and Church-wardens and some other substantiall men of your parish, that they be not overburthensome to such as performe those customes of drinking at the perambulation, and specially with out-commers from other Parishes.

9 Whether doth any man reade common prayer openly in your church or chappell, or administer the Sacraments of baptisme, or solemnize matrimony or take vpon him to practise any other ministeriall dutie in the church which is prescribed to be executed particularly by such as are either Ministers or Deacons, and what is his name that doth so?

10 Whether doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curat, vse to Preach amongst you, if not, how many Sermons yearely doth he procure to bee Preached by others, and whether were those Preachers licensed?

11 Whether doth your Parson Vicar or Curat, every Sunday and Holyday when there is no sermon reade distinctly and plainely, some part of the Homilies prescribed and set forth by authority.

12 Whether doth your Preacher in his prayer which he maketh at his sermon, vse to pray for the Kings Maiestie the Queene, and all the Royall Progenie, with his whole title as King of great Britaine France and Ireland, defender of the faith &c. and in all causes, and ouer all persons within his highnes dominions as well ecclesiasticall as temporall, next and immediately vnder God supreame gouernour, and whether doth he in like manner then pray for the Archbishops and Bishops, as by lawes are appointed.

13 Whether doth your Minister serue two Cures in one day, except it be a chappell belonging to his charge. Whether doth your Parson Vicar

or Curat every Sunday and Holyday, openly in the church earnestly call for, heare and instruct all the children, apprentices and servants of both sexes, that be of convenient age within your Parish, or at least so many of them by course as the time wil serue, and as he may well heare and instruct one houre, or halfe an houre at the least, before or after Euening prayer in the ten commandements, the articles of the beleife, and the Lords prayer, and diligently examine and teach them in the Catechisme, as is now allowed and set forth in the booke of common prayer, whereby the children of the parish may be prepared for confirmation, and those which are confirmed for the receiving of the communion, and whether be the children and Ignorant persons sent at the time to the church there to be instructed by the Minister, and if not what be their names that make default in not sending of them, and this we require you to haue an especiall care of, as also to bring your children to be confirmed, when the Bishop shall come about that holy service.

14 Whether is there any man in your Parish being neither your Parson, Vicar, nor Curat, that taketh vpon him to preach or reade Lectures, or expound the Scripture either in priuate houses, or publikely in your church or chappell, who is not Licensed to preach or reade there, or who doth not in every yeare vpon two Sundaies (at the least) both in the fore-noone, and in the after-noone, puplikely reade the whole service as it is prescribed in the booke of Common-prayer, and administer both the Sacraments in your said church or chappell, where he so preacheth or readeth, according to the booke of Common-prayer.

15 Whether your Minister hath or doth receiue to the holy Communion any persons which be not of his owne parish, without leaue or licence of the Lord Bishop, or other ordinary of the place, that it may appeare that they be not persons excommunicate, sectaries, or otherwise infamous.

16 Whether doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate question or reiect any from the holy Communion, who is not by publike authority adiudged a notorious fornicator, adulterer, or other wicked liuer, or a common disturber of his neighbours, by whom publike offence is giuen, and whether hee receaue any such person, so infamed or presented, to the holy Communion, before publike pennance enioyned by his ordinary, be first performed to the satisfaction of the congregation according to the law in that case prouided.

17 Whether hath your Parson, Vicar, or any other minister, or party whatsoever, publikely, or priuatly preached, or spoken any thing in derogation of the booke of Common prayer, by dispraising or deprauing the same, or any thing therein contained, or against the particular estate of the

Ecclesiasticall gouernment established by authority, or against any office, function, or part thereof, affirming the same to be vnlawfull Popish, Antichristian?

Articles concerning the Church.

1 Whether haue you in your Churches and Chappells all things necessary and requisite for common prayer, and administration of the Sacraments, especially a Bible of the largest volume and last Edition, the booke of common prayer with the new Kalender, the Psalter set forth by the Bishops, the Homilies both the first and second Tome, the Canon set out in the yeare 1603, a decent surplesse, a Table shewing the degrees of consanguinity and affinity forbidding marriages, set forth by authority in the yeare of our Lord God 1563, the table of the ten Commandements, a conuenient Pulpit well placed, a comely and decent Table standing vpon a frame for the holy Communion, with a faire linnen cloath to lay vpon the same, and some couering of silke, a comely carpet for the cleane keeping thereof, a faire and comely communion Cup of siluer, and a couer of siluer for the same, which may serue also for the ministration of Communion bread, a comely pot to fetch wine to serue the Lords Table, reserued and kept cleane to that vse only, and a strong chest or bore for the almes of the poore with three locks and keyes to the same, and all other things necessary in and to the premisses.

2 Whether any hath pulled downe or vncouered your Church, chancell, or chappell, or any part of them, or hath pulled downe the bells: whether is your Church or Chappell, and the chancell well and sufficiently repaired: whether doth the Parson, Vicar, or Curate, or the Proprietary or farmer of your parsonage or vicarage in your parish, keepe the parsonage or vicarage house, (with all the edifice thereunto appertaining) in good and sufficient reparations; and whether is your Churchyard well fenced and cleanly kept, without any Laystall, or other anoyances, and your trees in the church-yard cut downe and spoiled, and by whom.

3 Whether your fonts or baptisteries bee remoued from the place where they were wont to stand, or whether any persons leauing the vse of them, doe Christen in basons or other vessels, or haue taken downe the old vsuall font heretofore vsed in your parish.

4 Whether is there in your parish a sufficient register book of parchment of marriages Christnings and burialls, prouided at the charge of the parish, whether are all the names of those which haue beene either

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christned married or buried since the beginning of his late Maiesties raigne newly written into the said parchment booke: whether haue you a publike chest with three locks for the minister and the two churchwardens to keepe the said booke.

Articles concerning the Ecclesiasticall Court.

1 Whether hath any person within your parish promised or paid any summe of mony or other reward, directly or indirectly, by himselfe or any other to any Iudge, or officer of the Ecclesiasticall Court, for avoiding punishment for any incest, adultery, fornication, or any other Ecclesiasticall crime, if so, then with whom, when, or for what summes.

2 Whether hath any exercising the Ecclesiasticall iurisdiction belonging to the L. Bishop, or Archdeacons of Dron, or any Register, Apparator or Minister belonging to the same Ecclesiasticall court, exacted extraordinarily, or taken greater fees then heretofore of late hath beene accustomed: And whether is there a Table of the Rates of all fees set vp in their severall courts: And whether they or any of them haue taken vpon them the office of Informers or Promoters to the courts, or any other way abused themselues in their office contrary to the Law & Canons in that case prouided?

Articles concerning Schoolemasters.

1 Whether every Schoolmaster within your Parish in any Noble or Gentlemans house, or any other place, be of good and sincere religion, life, and conversation, and be diligent in teaching and bringing vp of youth: and whether they haue beene examined, allowed, and licensed for Schoole-masters by the Ordinary in that behalfe?

2 Whether your Schoolmaster, or Schoolmasters doe ordinarily on Sundaies with their schollers come to the church of their parish where they teach, and there see their Schollers placed in some conuenient place, so as they doe not disquiet the Minister or Parish in time of Diuine service, but may exercise themselues in reading, and hearing the seruice and sermon and answering with the congregation in reading of publikes.

3 Whether the schoolmaster or schoolmasters, either priuate or publike, doe teach their schollers the Catechisme, authorized by the publike authority, at the least once every weeke, and doe instruct and examine them in the same, or doe teach any other Catechisme, & what catechisme is that they so doe teach?

4 Whether your schoolmaster or schoolmasters, or any of them bee knowne, or suspected to read vnto their schollers priuatly any vnlawfull bookes, or priuatly doe instruct them in their yeares, either in Popery, superstition, or disobedience, or contempt to his Maiestie and his lawes Ecclesiasticall, by publike authority allowed?

Articles concerning the Parishioners and others of the Laity.

1 Whether all housholders in your parish cause their children, seruants and apprentises, both mankinde and womankinde, being aboue seauenteene yeares of age, and vnder twenty, which haue not learned the Catechisme, to come to the Church on Sundaies and Holidaies at the time appointed for catechising, and there diligently and obediently to heare, and what be the names of those that doe not cause their children, seruants, and apprentises so to come to the church to be instructed and examined?

2 Whether the Churchwardens doe present all those who doe not send their children to be catechised?

3 Whether any doe worke or keepe shop open vpon the Sabbath daies, that is, vpon Sundaies, or vpon any Holidaies appointed by the lawes of the Realme to be kept Holidaies, or vse any worke or labour, or open shew of their wares in any of those daies?

4 Whether you your selues, or the Churchwardens in the yeare before you, suffered any vnmaried woman, being gotten with child, to goe out of your parish, before she hath by you or them beene presented to your Ordinary, or any man defamed of whoredome, to depart vnpunished vpon direction appointed by the Ordinary? and forth of whose houses haue they gone away with child vnpunished, and what be the names of such vnmarried women, which haue beene deliuered within your parish, and haue gone away without doing of pennance?

5 Whether there be any person or persons Ecclesiasticall or Temporall within your parish, or elsewhere within this Dioces, that haue retained and kept in their custody, or that read, sell, vtter, disperse, carry or deliuer to others any English books or Libels, set forth either on this side, or beyond the seas, by Papists or Sectaries, against the Kings supremacie, in causes Ecclesiasticall, or against true religion and Catholike doctrine now publikely professed in this Church, or the gouerment or discipline of the Church of England now within this Realme receaued and established by common authority, and what their names and sur-names are?

6 Whether there be any in your parish who are noted, knowne, or suspected

ſpected to conceale or keepe hidden in their houſes any maſſe bookes, Portteſſes Breviaries or other bookes of Popery, or any Challices, Copes, veſtments, robes, or other ornaments of ſuperſtition vncancelled or vndefaced?

7 Whether there be in your pariſh any Popiſh or ſectary recuſant, or recuſants, which for any cauſe whatſoeuer, forbeare to come to Church or common prayer, preſent their names qualities and conditions, and how long they haue abſtained from diuine ſeruice, and from the Communion?

8 Whether all the people of your pariſh aboue ſixteene yeares of age, and eſpecially houſholders hauing no lawfull excuſe to be abſent, doe reſort with their ſeruants and children to their pariſh Church or Chappell on the Holidaies, and on the Sundaies to morning and euening prayer, and who they be that either negligently or wilfully abſent themſelues, or doe vnreuerently behaue themſelues in the Church, or vſe any gaming or paſtime abroad in any houſe, or ſit in the ſtreet or church-yard, or in any Taberne or Alehouſe vpon the Sunday, or Holydaie in the time of common prayer, ſermon, or reading of the Homilies, or any of them, either before or afternoone?

9 Whether the Churchwardens of the laſt yeare haue giuen to the Parſon or Vicar, and the Pariſh, a iuſt account of the church goods that were committed to their charge, and what church goods they or any other haue ſold, and to whom, and whether to the profit of the church or no, and what haue beene done with the mony therewith comming?

10 Whether the Churchwardens and ſworne men haue of any priuate corrupt affection, concealed any crime or other diſorder in their time done in your pariſh, and haue not preſented the ſame to the Biſhop, Archdeacon, Commiſſary, or ſuch other as had authority to reforme the ſame, & whether they or any of them, at any ſuch time as they ſhould haue beene at diuine ſeruice on Sundaies and Holidaies, and ſhould there haue obſerued others that were abſent, haue beene away themſelues at home, or in ſome Tauerne or Alehouſe, or elſe about ſome worldly buſineſſe, or at bowles, cards, tables, dice, or other gaming, without regarding of their office and duty in that behalfe?

11 Whether any of your pariſh being of conuenient age, haue not receaued the holy Communion this laſt yeare, and namely at Eaſter laſt, or thereabouts, for once, and what their names are which haue not receaued?

12 Whether there bee any in your pariſh that doth adminiſter the goods of thoſe that be dead without lawfull authority, or any that ſuppreſſe the laſt Will of the dead, or any Executors that haue not fulfilled their te-

ſtators laſt will in paying of Legacies giuen to the Church, or to other good and godly vſes, as to the releife of pouertie or Orphanes, poore ſchollers, poore maidens marriage, high waies, and ſuch like, & by whom they are ſo denied?

13 Whether there be amongſt you any blaſphemers of the name of God, or often ſwearers, aduulterers, fornicators, harlots, or whoremaſters, inceſtuous perſons, bawds, or receauers of naughty and incontinent perſons, or harborers of women with child, which be vnmarried, conuaying or ſuffering them to goe away before they take any pennance: or any that are vehemently ſuſpected of any ſuch faults, or knowne, or publikly, or credibly famed to be the attemptors of the chaſtity of any womã, or drunkards, or Ribands, or any that be malitious, contentious, or vncharitable perſons, fighters or chiders in the Church or Churchyard, railers, ſcolders, or ſowers of diſcord betweene neighbours, and eſpecially railers againſt Miniſters, and againſt their marriage, or haue committed fornication with their wiues before marriage, and what be all their ſeuerall names?

14 Whether if you knowe of any in any priuate houſe, or not betweene the houres of eight and twelue in the forenoone, or that haue beene married within the degrees of affinity and conſanguinity, by the lawes of God forbidden, or that being diuorced or ſeparated for the ſame, doe yet notwithſtanding cohabit and keepe company together: or any that being married without thoſe degrees, haue vnlawfully forſaken their wiues or husbands, and married others: any that being diuorced or ſeparated aſunder haue married againe: any that haue married without Banes three ſeuerall ſundaies or holidaies ſolemnly asked, and being not licenſed by the authority of the Biſhop, or Archdeacon of Oxon: or without other lawfull licenſe thereunto: or any couples married that liue not together, but ſlanderous liue apart?

15 Whether there be any married women or others within your pariſh, which after child-birth refuſe, or contemne to come to the Church in decent ſort to giue God thanks for their deliuery, and to heare the prayers publikely appointed in that behalfe by the booke of common prayer?

16 Whether any within your pariſh doe reſort into Barnes, Fields, Woods, priuate houſes, to any extraordinary expoſition of Scriptures, or conferences together, or that be drawers or perſwaders of others to any ſuch ſchiſmaticall conuenticles?

17 Whether any doe keepe their children vnbaptiſed longer then is conuenient, and whether any doe carry their children from the pariſh they are borne in to other pariſhes to be baptiſed, and ſo to refuſe their own pa-

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rish, or doe bring strange Ministers into their owne houses to baptise their children privately according to their own phantasies?

18 Whether any haue beene admitted to be Godfathers or Godmothers, and haue not before that time receaued the Communion?

19 Finally you shall present by vertue of your oathes all and every person knowne, or vehemently suspected to be guiltie of sinne or crime punishable by Ecclesiasticall discipline, all depravers of religion and Church gouerment established in this Realme, and especially all the depravers of the Royall Supremacy of our Soueraigne Lord the King in all causes Ecclesiasticall, and all that doe any way disquiet the peace of the Church of England, and whatsoever fault else worthie the presentment in your iudgement and fit to be reformed by Ecclesiasticall censure, although it bee not expressed in these Articles.

FINIS.